

Pinellas County Environmental Fund Strategic Priorities

Applicants to the Pinellas County Environmental Fund (PCEF) are strongly urged to consider the following strategic priorities when preparing pre-proposals. Applicants are urged to contact PCEF staff to discuss project ideas prior to submitting a preproposal.

Habitat Conservation and Restoration

A primary goal for PCEF is to fund habitat conservation and restoration projects that reduce nitrogen and contaminant flow into Tampa Bay. These general approaches are favored:

- Ecosystem, rather than strictly isolated or local projects;
- Proposals that address habitat goals set forth by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (www.swfwmd.state.fl.us) (1-800-423-1476).
- Projects that simultaneously reduce storm water run-off and restore habitat;
- Innovative proposals that use PCEF funds to leverage larger sources of funds.

More specifically, proposals that result in conservation and restoration of the following habitats are encouraged:

- Oligohaline sites;
- Mangroves;
- Freshwater, ephemeral wetlands well-suited as habitat for wading birds such as white ibis; and
- Marsh grasses and seagrasses

Invasive Exotics

Proposals that address the impact and/or control of the following species are encouraged. Basic research will not be considered; applied research addressing management issues is appropriate.

- *Caulerpa taxifolia*; (killer algae)
- Green mussels.
- Projects that address removal and control of invasive, exotic plants in terrestrial habitats are also a PCEF priority.

Education

Proposals addressing the following issues are encouraged:

- County- or region-wide efforts to encourage participation in the “Clean Marina” program;
- Programs that reduce human/manatee conflicts through “Manatee Watch” or similar efforts; and
- Expansion of the “Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program.”

Species Conservation

Proposals that enhance the conservation of the following species are requested:

- Blue crabs, through Bay-wide efforts to eliminate “ghost traps;”
- Scallop reintroduction;
- Birds and marine life through monofilament fishing line clean-up, particularly large scale programs to provide receptacles for collection of unwanted line;
- Oysters, including bar creation and domes;
- Manatees; and
- Wading and shore birds.